

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

A TREATISE ON MASSAGE, Theoretical and Practical; Its History, Mode of Application and Effects, Indications and Contra-Indications, with Results in over Fifteen Hundred Cases. DOUGLAS GRAHAM, M.D. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. New York: J. H. Vail & Co. St. Louis: J. H. Chambers & Co., 914 Locust Street.

This second edition has been enlarged to three hundred and thirty-five pages by two new chapters, one on Local Massage for Neurasthenia, the other on the Treatment of Scoliosis by Means of Massage; and by numerous minor additions, many of which are merely confirmatory of previous statements.

The work opens with two interesting chapters on the history of massage, replete with ancient lore. Following this are chapters on the mode of applying massage, and its physiological effects. Then come numerous chapters on the treatment of morbid conditions by means of massage. These are abundantly illustrated by clinical examples, for the author prefers to bring forth illustrative cases rather than the deductions from them alone. In fact the arguments in which he seems to delight for the support of his theories are of this undisputable character. He cites not only from his own experience, but gives case after case from the records of other observers.

As do most writers upon such special subjects, he falls into the error of giving the impression that the subject upon which he writes is the *res suprema*. It may be said, however, that no one shall read this work without sharing, in a degree, the enthusiasm of the author; for the clinical reports which he gives are such as appeal to every practitioner, and especially to those who have much to do with chronic diseases. Although we are told how, and when, and where to give mas-

sage, in the first of these is the stumbling block. Were the administration of massage as easy as that of pills and tinctures its use would be more universal than any preparation in pharmacy. It requires toil. When the professional mind is disabused of this idea, and when the physician is as willing as the surgeon to give himself as a part of his treatment, such works as Dr. Graham's shall find more eager readers. The medical profession is urged to make massage more of a part of its armamentarium, to elevate it from the hands of charlatans and the uneducated, and give it the endorsement of science. "We ought not to reject a useful means," said Nelaton, "because it has been used by those unskilled in the medical art."

Although in its essence this is strictly a scientific work, yet the style is not that generally adopted by writers on scientific subjects. At the head of each chapter are some lines of poetry or philosophic quotation, such as the novelist is wont to use, bearing upon that chapter. The text is interspersed with apt bits of humor and incidents, which make the reading pleasing even aside from its intrinsic scientific merit.

The application of massage to surgery is fully set forth. A chapter is devoted to the uterus and its appendages, with a report of two hundred and thirty nine cases. Numerous cases of intestinal obstruction, especially those due to fecal impaction and intussusception, are reported cured by massage. The author is surgeon enough to mention the danger of such treatment in case of inflamed or otherwise weakened gut. The most noteworthy chapters are those upon the treatment of sprains and joint affections, for in these above all other lesions, massage has been most successfully employed. After reviewing these statistics we may say with Malgaigne that, massage is "the soul of orthopædic surgery." The use of heat, cold, rest, or pressure can show no such results in sprains and synovitis as does massage. Seven hundred cases are reported, which show recovery in one third the usual time under other methods of treatment. The interesting experiments of von Mosengeil, upon the joints of animals, demonstrating the rapidity of absorption of fluids from joint cavities, are given to show how this absorption is accelerated and how quickly a joint may be emptied

of fluid by means of massage. This evidence the author believes to be highly confirmatory that the synovial membrane, in its structure and functions, resembles the pleura and peritoneum, in which the respiratory movements, by their pump-like action, cause exuded fluids to be taken up and propelled onward in the lymphatic channels. So with the sheaths of tendons and joint membranes, by massage the lymphatic currents are excited to greater activity.

Some attention is given to the treatment of recent fractures of the patella by means of passive motion and massage. Such proceeding is not in harmony with modern surgical tendencies.

No physician will read this work without feeling an impulse to try his hand at massage. He will find that some tedious case in his practice is just the one for such treatment; a treatment that is destined to occupy a more prominent place in the curative art, and which is to be elevated to that position by such works as has just been our pleasure to review.

JAMES P. WARBASSE.

LEHRBUCH DER SPECIELLEN CHIRURGIE. VON PROF. DR. HERMANN
TILLMANN. Leipzig, Veit & Co., 1891; New York, G. E. Stechert;
St. Louis, J. H. Chambers & Co.

TEXT-BOOK ON REGIONAL SURGERY.

This large volume of 1300 pages is the second part of the author's text book on general and regional surgery, the first part of which was noticed in this journal some time ago. The injuries and diseases of every anatomical region, of the various organs, and those of the extremities are here separately considered; and a complete operative manual as well as anatomical and pathological introductory remarks to each subject are included in the programme.

The book is very complete considering the fact that the whole of so-called special surgery has been treated in one volume. The methods given are generally the ones most accepted in Germany, but occasionally the author's individuality asserts itself more strongly, as is apt to be the case in a work of this character. As instances we may